

Death of Daniel Webster.

The link with which these lines are traced shall have ceased to moisten the page, the spirit of one of the greatest of American statesmen will have fled from the earth. While we write, a circle of agonized friends surrounds the death-bed at Marshfield, who have just contemplated the last workings of that prodigious mind whose influence over our history has been surpassed by no other statesman, save only the immortal Washington. His voice has ceased to utter his ideas; his fading pulse no longer throbs; a thrill—the intuitive perception of the fatal close of the struggle—has shot through the hearts of the bystanders, and Daniel Webster is no more!

To estimate the loss which has fallen upon the country, we shall not need to invoke the laudatory opinions of biographers, or search the volumes of the historian. Every child among us is familiar with the deeds which have raised Mr. Webster to the first rank among our great men. Every citizen can recall, without effort of memory, those sublime achievements which have earned for him the proud title of "Defender of the Constitution." Written on the most conspicuous page of our annals, they figure as well in every feature of our national greatness, and are revealed in every incident which reminds us that the constitution is intact, and the mighty Union unimpaird. Whenever the statesman shall proclaim his freedom from sectional bias, he will but avouch his adherence to those patriotic principles which are inseparably connected with the name of Webster; the pledge of the aspiring politician—that "he knows no North, no South, no East, no West, but the whole Union"—will go down to posterity as a promise of adherence to the Webster principle; for he was essentially the man of the whole country, despite the sectional influences of his early education, and the atmosphere of narrow prejudice in which he first acquired his notions of politics. In the teeth of angry remonstrances from his constituents State, and furious attacks from zealous partisans—from the very first views were large and liberal; his heart sufficiently capacious to embrace the whole of his native land. That memorable speech, which so fairly challenges a comparison with the highest efforts of ancient or modern oratory, the second reply to Col. Hayne, on Mr. Foote's resolutions on the public lands, is less a defense of Massachusetts than a vindication of the indivisibility of the Union; and though the men from Boston burst like children into passionate tears, when their Senator told of the land "where American liberty raised its first voice; where its youth was nurtured and sustained; where it still lives in the strength of its manhood, and full of its original spirit," the rush of feeling among his hearers was still more impetuous, when, with flashing eye and swelling voice, he uttered those imperishable words: "When my eyes shall be turned to behold for the last time the sun in heaven, may I not see him shining on the broken and dishonored fragments of our glorious Union? On States severed, discordant, belligerent! Let their last feeble and lingering glance rather behold the gorgeous ensign of the republic, now known and honored through the earth, still full high advanced, its arms and trophies streaming in their original luster, not a stripe crumpled nor polluted, not a single star obscured! Nor does his speech in reply to Mr. Calhoun, on the Force Bill, afford less conclusive evidence of the deep devotion with which he regarded the great work of our forefathers. Less brilliant, less ornate than his reply to Col. Hayne, it is more calculated for close study in the cabinet than for the hasty perusal which is usually bestowed on political speeches. But it breathes the same sentiments of comprehensive patriotism as its more popular predecessor. On the same broad grounds, Mr. Webster always opposed the Mexican war, through the fear that new accessions of territory might endanger the existing bond of union between the several States. In short, from 1820, when he rebuked the assaults of the East, and raised the banner of the whole country in opposition to that of a part, to his last combat with nullification, secession, and disunion to his ever memorable speeches on the compromise measures—he has never once belied his grand ruling principle: "Standing on the platform of the general constitution—a platform broad enough and firm enough to uphold every interest of the whole country—I shall still be found." We cannot over estimate the value of this virtue in Mr. Webster, or our debt of gratitude to his memory. Who knows, if he had not stood on the floor of the Senate, and the platform, when the Union was assailed, whether our national flag would have been spangled with thirty-one stars to-day?

But his renown as a patriot is balanced by his skill as a diplomatist and a statesman. We need not allude to his well known share in the measures adopted by General Jackson to counteract the disunionist tendencies of South Carolina; nor need we remind our readers of his noble co-operation with Clay in the settlement of the disputes of 1850. This country will not ever regard him as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, foreign ministers who has ever had. No public honors paid to his memory could adequately discharge our obligation for the settlement of the vexed question which threatened a war with Great Britain in 1841: an achievement equally creditable to his heart and his head. With the treaty of May, 1842, must be classed the final adjustment of the Oregon dispute, which, as is well known, was mainly due to his able letter to Mr. McLurg, M. P. for Glasgow; and while we bear testimony to his strenuous exertions to preserve peace between this country and England, we must not forget that the blessing was never purchased at any sacrifice of principle or honor; that, while he loved peace and appreciated its value, he never shrunk from a just war. It was in consequence of his bold deportment that we can boast that we have extorted from Great Britain what the rest of the world might have sued for in vain—two unconditional apologies for affronts offered to our national flag. Nor was he deficient in those noble sentiments which teach us that we cannot look with unconcern on the fate of our fellow men; it was to his intervention that the Sandwich Islanders owed the recognition of their independence by the principal maritime powers.

As an orator, he will go down to posterity side by side with the Chancellors, the Barons, the Vergils, the Broughams. In him, brilliancy of diction and warmth of color did not involve a want of profundity or logic. When you heard him, you pronounced him to be emphatically a man of feeling; when you read his speeches, you were not less struck with the faultless precision of the reasoning, the unerring accuracy of the deductions. His chief characteristic, if one quality predominated over the other, was his earnestness of purpose. When Mr. Bell observed that it was high time the people of this country should know what the constitution was: "Then by the blessing of Heaven," replied Mr. Webster, "they shall learn this day, before the sun goes down, what I take it to be." There could be no doubt that this man was, in the language of the old English republicans, "thorough"—he felt what he said, felt it deeply, and clothed it in words which his hearers could not help feeling. It is told of one of his bitterest opponents, that during a powerful appeal of Mr. Webster to the Senate, he affected to disparage him, and pretended to read a newspaper while the "Expositor" was pouring forth words of fire; but the flushed cheek and trembling hand betrayed the device, and left little room for surmise when it was discovered that the newspaper was upside down.

This country has not produced a truer friend of liberty than Mr. Webster. At home, he was the uncompromising foe to any measure in which his eagle eye detected seeds of invasion upon the rights of the people; abroad—let Greece, round to a new life, let South America, for whose infant States he has stood sponsor at the font of nations, bear witness to his noble sympathy with the oppressed, and his zeal for the extension of liberty throughout the world.

Within a very brief space of time, America has lost three of her greatest sons—Calhoun, Clay, and Webster. It will be difficult to fill their places in the councils of the nation, or in the tribune. We cannot contemplate their loss without other feelings than mere grief. No American can call to memory the services of these great men, and recollect the manner in which they have been requited, without a keen twinge of remorse. It was the boast of England that if the life of her greatest hero had left no duty incomplete, it had likewise left no honor unbestowed. No such consolation is allowed to us. Both Clay and Webster have gone to the tomb with a large debt of gratitude still due to them, which this country might have repaid; both, after spending a life of untiring energy and devotion in the public service, lived to witness their own contemptuous rejection, and the pre-empt of men unquestionably their inferiors, to the office to which they had paramount claims.

Hayti and its Emperor.

The royal negro who rules over the Empire of Hayti appears to be meditating and preparing for a new war against the Dominicans, and present appearances indicate that to this end he is receiving aid and encouragement from parties in this country. The Republic of San Domingo in the eastern portion of Hayti, has long excited the jealousy and rapacity of Souleouque and his predecessors and was between the two petty powers, yet their continuance has tended much towards the impoverishment of the whole island. It has only been within the last twelve months that the resources of both sides being completely exhausted, a temporary cessation of hostilities was tacitly agreed to through sheer necessity—this state of war to be resumed at whatever time either of the hostile powers might consider itself prepared to renew the struggle.

In this menacing and ruinous condition have the mutual relations of Hayti and San Domingo stood for nearly twelve months back. In that interval of time, and profiting by the peace, Souleouque has got himself solemnly crowned in his capital, with all the pomp and ceremony usual on such great occasions. He has also recruited and re-equipped his army, and placed it on as effective a footing as the resources of his empire would permit. He has been distributing eagles and crosses of the Legion of Honor, and ranks and titles, and, in fact, imitating, in every particular, the modes resorted to by the most splendid monarchs to ensure or to reward the fidelity of his army. The address from the throne to the congregated wisdom of his empire, in Senate assembled—a translation of which we publish in another column—is a document worthy of standing side by side with those which are periodically read in the British House of Lords. It gives an analysis of the condition of the empire, calls attention to the state of the public works, the budget, internal and external trade, custom houses, the crops, the army and navy, the foreign relations of the government, public instruction, &c. In relation to the army and navy, the address states that they are on a respectable footing, and hints at the precious advantages which the country may derive from them. What those advantages are, which are thus shadowed out in prospect, it is not difficult to divine, particularly when taken in connection with a preceding paragraph, referring to the Dominicans, where Souleouque intimates the direction of his policy, in these significant words:

"We hope, then, that the Eastern inhabitants, understanding their true interests, will acknowledge, after a serious meditation, that their only possible and real path consists in mingling their existence with ours."

—Or, in other words, submit to the absorption into that government of their independent republic.

The Dominicans, on the other part, do not seem to be much frightened by the hostile indications exhibited by their woolly headed neighbors. Though much inferior to their adversaries in numbers, they have confidence in their ability to repel every incursion which may be made on them from that quarter. The army of Souleouque probably amounts to some thirty thousand men, while that of the Dominicans is hardly more than two-thirds of that number; but yet the latter seems quite adequate to protect the republic from the cruelty and rapacity of the savages who threaten it. We learn, however, that with the design of ensuring their safety beyond all peradventure, a scheme is on foot to promote and encourage immigration to that division of the island, and that, at the present moment, arrangements are being made with President Diaz, for the immigration and settlement of foreigners there. The Dominicans also exhibit much anxiety for the establishment of a line of steamers between San Domingo and one of our ports, by way of Jamaica. If these measures are carried out, the effect of them will be to guarantee the safety of the Dominicans, and perhaps reverse the attitude of the Haytiens, by rendering it necessary for them to confine their energies to defensive operations.

Souleouque and his government have been indirectly encouraged and supported by those at the head of the affairs of this republic, although the latter have not yet gone so far as to recognize officially the empire of Hayti. Mr. Green was sent to the island by General Taylor's first cabinet, as a special minister, to examine and report upon the condition of affairs. He seemed to have taken sides with Souleouque, but his report was never acted upon, but set aside after the death of the President. Since then, however, certain influential merchants in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, speculating on the interests to result to their firms, have been secretly endeavoring to influence Mr. Fillmore and his cabinet to acknowledge the independence of Hayti. These speculators look forward to a contingency in which they might secure for their firms some exclusive privileges in the trade with Hayti, and they descend to the meanest kind of flunkeyism to propitiate the favor of the mighty Emperor Souleouque. One firm has had flattering likenesses taken of his majesty, his empress consort, and household, and has had paintings engraved and published in a very expensive and elegant style. Others have paid their court to him by making him presents of the most tasteless and humors. But decidedly the most contemptible and humiliating exhibition made in this way, was that on the occasion of presenting him with some bauble in the shape of a dagger, by the agent of a commercial house in this city. The address accompanying it is characterized by the most abject and servile sentiments, that we have ever seen emanating from American citizens; it is utterly unworthy of any man having pretensions to self respect or independence of mind, and is an insult to that respected, honorable, high spirited class of the community who were, to a certain extent, represented by its subscribers.

Here is the address alluded to, which we some time since extracted from a Haytian paper:—

New York, July 8, 1852.

Sire—The illustrious and marvellous acts which your Majesty has exhibited to the world, and the unbounded confidence that your government has given to the commerce of all nations, and the protection of their citizens under the wise administration of your laws, have for a long time excited the admiration of your humble servants to such a degree that they beg to tender to your Majesty's acceptance the accompanying small homage, consisting of a dagger mounted in precious stones.

We take the liberty, sire, by the assistance of Major Faustin, the representative of our commercial house in your empire, to approach the throne of your Imperial Majesty, and to place at your august feet the accompanying present, as a token of our admiration. Design, Sire, to confer on us the honor of accepting it.

We shall be always willing to place at the disposal of your Majesty any article contained in our commercial house, and to carry out the views and promote the happiness of your Imperial family.

If your Imperial Majesty has any immediate orders to send us, please to forward them through our representative.

May Almighty God protect your Imperial Majesty and your august family, and may you continue, for many years to come, to hold the government of the empire.

With that hope and with sincere expressions for your welfare, we have the honor to remain, Sire, your most humble and very obedient servants.

MENDEL BROTHERS.

To what unbounded depths of flunkeyism do not speculators sometimes descend, for the purpose of procuring some privilege in trade! Placing at the feet of an odorous negro a token of admiration may be esteemed an honorable feat by the house of Mendel Brothers; but we much misunderstand the public spirit of our merchants if they would not repudiate the very idea of having been represented

at that occasion. Why, the speculators and porters at our wharves would disdain to commit so humiliating an action as that; they have more self-respect than to address an ignorant savage like Souleouque, on terms of equality, much less play the hypocrite to him, and address him in terms such only as are used to popes and autocrats by their own subjects, but which true republicans would scorn to descend to. And to whom are such expressions used? To a common ignorant negro, who was intended by nature rather to carry a whitewash bucket, assist in unloading ships at the wharves, work in a sugar plantation, or earn his bread by any other employment of drudgery, than to occupy the position he now holds, to be the recipient of such homage as that paid to him by the Messrs. Mendel.

But such tributes as these, from the merchants of this latitude, to Faustin the First, only give indications of the spirit which is secretly at work among them and the abolitionists, to puff up the importance of the Haytian empire, and, if possible, procure its recognition by our government. In this, however, we do not believe they will succeed. No popular government would venture so to insult the national self respect as to admit a nation made up of ignorant negroes to maintain diplomatic relations with us. But some of these persons look to another contingency, in the renewal of hostilities by Souleouque against the Dominicans, from which they anticipate some lucky hit in the way of trade; and for this prospective advantage they do not hesitate to commit acts of which the humblest man in their employment would feel ashamed. We would not feel at all surprised if our next communications from the island brought us the intelligence that the war of colors had again broken out in Hayti. If it has, there will be a grand chance for our enterprising flunkeyism, joining the Dominican standard, annihilating the black empire, and restoring the negroes to that position in society which alone they are fitted to adorn.

CRUISE LETTERS—TREASURABLE CORRESPONDENCE.

We publish to-day, two letters, written by two individuals in the United States, to Gen. Almonte, during the Mexican war. The author of one of them, Mr. Lewis H. Putnam, comes out boldly, and talks of subverting the American government as easily as it were "his cypher," which was about to open and devour. Mr. P. is a gentleman of color, and is one of the leaders of the black statesmen and politicians who infect New York and elsewhere, and occasionally create a sensation in meetings and conventions in the Shuloh Presbyterian church, and other places in this city. The author of the other is evidently of lighter hue—a man of education, knowledge, of experience, and of close information in politics and State affairs. He has had the sense to guard against the contingency which has occurred, of the publication of his correspondence, by withholding his name. He is a good whig, a thoroughgoing abolitionist, and a man of unbounded philanthropy. The two letters speak for themselves, and show the feeling which existed between two classes in the country in common. At least, they are fair exponents of those of two of the classes, and perhaps these are as good as many of them.

The history of the letters is as follows:—

When the American army entered Mexico in 1847, the Post office was seized, and the letters found there were examined. Amongst them were many from people in the United States to Mexican functionaries, especially to Almonte. This individual was at the time, and had been for some months previously, under surveillance, by the order of Santa Anna, and therefore failed to receive his correspondence. The mass of it was sent up to Gen. Scott, who retained or destroyed it. The two letters which we publish to-day escaped this fate, and we think may be interesting to the lovers of history, especially of that of the Mexican war, which, some hope, will prove the mother of Presidents for some time to come.

We should like to see the rest of this interesting correspondence, and suggest that Gen. Scott should bring it out, if he has not destroyed it. It would give a very fair idea of the estimation in which his exploits were held by some of his supporters, as well as of their own patriotism.

FRED DOUGLASS AND HORACE GREELY.—With all the violence of Fred Douglass, and all his amazing impudence, he sometimes tells a good deal of truth, particularly in reference to the insincerity and hypocrisy of those white abolitionists who identify themselves with anti-slavery principles for the purpose of influencing the colored vote, and the honest portion of the white section of the party, in favor of whig or democratic candidates in State, Congressional, and Presidential elections. In a speech of six columns, delivered at Ithaca, and published in his own paper, Douglass shows up the anti-slavery whigs and Horace Greeley in admirable style. He says:—"There is something really amazing in the evolutions of the anti-slavery whigs who have brought themselves to vote for the whig candidates. When we tell them that by voting for General Scott they vote for the Baltimore platform, they say—'Not at all; we vote for the candidate, not the platform.' Douglass justly attributes the authorship of this theory to Horace Greeley, 'a man,' he says, 'whose moral convictions are always kept beyond hearing distance behind his political action.' In Greeley's doting, repudiating, and spitting upon the platform, he says it is 'like spitting to windward, it comes straight back in Greeley's face.' The gist of the whole speech is contained in the following pithy extract:—

"From this theory, the whig clavisers may vote for Scott because he is on the platform, and the whig abolitionists may vote for him because he is too good to be on the platform, and because he will cheat the South, if he shall be elected. Now I hold this to be a desperate place of political dishonesty, and the whig clavisers, by voting his book, is nothing in this."

Very true, and very expressive!

THE AFFAIR OF THE CRESCENT CITY—CAPTAIN PORTER'S INSTRUCTIONS.—According to our telegraphic advices from Washington, Capt. Porter, late in command of the Crescent City steamer, has been blest with any quantity of good advice, in reference to our commercial relations with Spain and Cuba, from the mouth of Mr. Kennedy himself, the Secretary of the Navy, and the author of "Horse Shoe Robinson." As far as we are informed of the import of these instructions, Captain Porter's protests against the late outrageous exclusions of ships from Havana are not approved of by Mr. Kennedy. On the contrary, the Captain-General is justified as having the right, under the circumstances, to refuse admission to the Crescent City. Well, in a few days the ship will return to Havana, and if Mr. Smith is not on board, we shall understand it at once. Captain Porter will return to the command of his regular ship, the Georgia; but that is of no material consequence. The issue to be met is, the right of the Crescent City to enter the port of Havana, with Purser Smith on board. We shall see how that issue is settled. Perhaps it will be evaded—perhaps. *Nous verrons.*

GEN. SCOTT'S SPEECHES.—We have preserved all the speeches of Gen. Scott in his late expedition, "by the nearest route," in search of a site for a military hospital at the Blue Licks in Kentucky. They amount to fifty-three in number, on the way out and on the way back, or one for every week in the year. They are not so magnificent or convincing as the speeches of Henry Clay, nor so profound, or grand, or great, as the speeches of Daniel Webster; they are not so elaborate or classical as the speeches of Kosuth—they are hardly up to the standard of Zachary Taylor's campaign letters of 1848—but they will do. In order, therefore, that they may be appropriated to the best advantage for the public information, we shall, probably, publish them all in a lump, in a day or two. They will be invaluable, all in the lump.

Naval Intelligence.

DEPARTURE OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—The United States steam frigate Mississippi, Com. Perry, left her moorings in the East river, on Saturday, and proceeded for Annapolis, where she will await the arrival of the remainder of the Japan squadron.

GEN. PIERCE IN THE BATTLE OF MEXICO.—We publish this morning, from the columns of the *Courier and Enquirer*, a letter written by General Pierce from the city of Mexico to a friend in this city, immediately after those splendid opening battles in the Mexican basin, of Contreras and Churubusco, in August, 1847. As a specimen of familiar correspondence this letter is an elegant production. It gives a lucid general description of the two battles in question, and of the part which General Pierce himself performed in them; and, what is better still, his account of himself particularly, is strikingly corroborated by General Scott's official report, and all the other official reports of those brilliant operations of the month of August.

The historical veracity of General Pierce's letter being thus firmly established, no wonder the ally and ridiculous charge of cowardice, brought against him by the most unprincipled of the Seward-Scott organs, has recoiled upon them to "plague the inventors." In a dark night, in the van of the battle, leading his column to the charge over a field of lava, General Pierce's horse falls with him, within the full blaze of the enemy's fires, and being crippled by the fall, he is charged with cowardice, whereas, had he been killed, he would have been immortalized as the particular hero of the field. The only wonder is that he was not killed. His preservation seems almost a miraculous preservation for the performance of far more responsible duties than those of Contreras and Churubusco.

In one important particular, however, we must do justice to Gen. Scott. He appointed, after the victory of Churubusco, Gen. Pierce as one of the three commissioners to negotiate an armistice with Santa Anna. Now, it is notorious that Gen. Scott was egregiously tricked by Santa Anna in this armistice; for it cost our army ten thousand dollars in cash down to the enemy, and the loss of some two thousand men killed and wounded in the bloody work at Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, and the Garitas. The responsibility rests with Gen. Scott, although it appears that his commissioners, or at least one of them, according to the letter of Gen. Pierce, also expected that peace would be the result of the armistice. But the single fact of General Pierce's appointment, as one of the commissioners to settle the terms of the armistice, amounts to a positive endorsement of the most satisfactory kind, by General Scott, not only of the courage and bravery of General Pierce, but of his capacities for the most important negotiations. Strict justice, therefore, to Gen. Scott will admit of no other conclusion than that General Pierce sustained the character of a brave soldier and able civilian in Mexico. The contrary judgment would make a fool of the General-in-Chief of the army; and the great fear is, that, in more respects than one, the suicidal course of the Seward organs and managers will have produced the impression that more gunpowder availability is not exactly the thing for the peace establishment.

But, in a word, the partiality of Gen. Scott for Gen. Pierce in Mexico proves that if the former is a man of sagacity, the latter is a man of merit. The letter of Gen. Pierce, of 1847, is not necessary to establish this point. We only give it as an interesting and truthful reminiscence contemporaneous with the events described.

CLOSING UP THE RANKS.—We learn that one fine evening last week, at a "private" room in the Astor House, a committee of Gen. Scott's most industrious friends met, and had a long consultation upon the ways and means of securing the western counties of Pennsylvania, and the Western Reserve of Ohio, from the gripe of the free soilers. We are also informed, by the Washington *Union*, that Truman Smith and his agents are very busy there, in raising contributions from the office holders of the several executive departments. Put the two movements together, and we may form a guess at the probable disposition of the sinews of war. They are closing up the ranks.

THE WEATHER.—We enjoyed a very fine day during yesterday. The morning opened like a day in advanced spring. As midday approached it became warm, and up to three o'clock in the afternoon we experienced a great heat. The thermometer at the Herald building ranged at noon 72; at 3 P. M. 73; at 5 P. M. 71; during the evening, and up to late night, we had calm, mild weather, and a promise of its continuance for some time.

CITY POLITICS.

The Hon. Horatio Seymour, the democratic nominee for Governor, has been on a visit to this city. He leaves to-day, to attend the Democratic State Council at Utica. The Young Men's Democratic Union Club, who have chartered the steamboats Isaac Newton and New World for the occasion, will also leave to-day. The hour of departure will be six o'clock P. M., and previous to their embarkation a grand salute will be fired in the Park.

The democratic great mass meeting in this city to-morrow night, will probably be the most noisy, the most brilliant, the most explosive, the most uproarious meeting, ever held in or around Tammany, for the last fifty years.

The Doctors of New York are in the field. Although they get their living out of the sick they have come forward patriotically and neighborly for the preservation of the health of the city, wholly regardless of the fees they have nominated one of their number for City Inspector, and their address to the public is worth reading. We give it in another column. Our physicians are self-sacrificing men.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

THE CAPTAINS OF POLICE—THE MYSTERY SOLVED.

A few days ago we noticed the fact that a private meeting was called by the Captains of Police to meet in caucus at